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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 05669 151243 Z

46
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 IO-12

RSR-01 /137 W
---------- 065601
O R 151200 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4373
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5669

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJ: SHARMA ATTACKS: CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 5615; (B) NEW DELHI 14364 (1 DEC 72);
(C) STATE 91960

1. I CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY AVTAR SINGH AT 100 LOCAL TIME MAY 15 AND ORALLY MADE POINTS A, C, AND G FROM PARA 4 REF (A).

2. IN REPLY, SINGH SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED SHARMA ATTACKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS CHECKING TO SEE IF SHARMA HAD SPOKEN FROM TEXT. IT APPEARED THERE WAS NO TEXT. SINGH NOTED SHARMA HAD DENIED NEWS REPORT FROM JAUNPUR THAT HE HAD ADVOCATED NATIONALIZATION OF LEGAL PROFESSION (LEAVING INFERENCE THAT SHARMA MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISQUOTED ON US ALSO).

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3. SINGH SAID FOREIGN MINISTER HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO SAY TO ME THAT US SHOULD GO BY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF GOI POLICY TOWARD US AS CONTAINED IN NOVEMBER 30 STATEMENT (REF (B) AND ENUNCIATED BY INDIAN SIDE DURING RUSH VISIT. SINGH CONTINUED THAT GOVERNMENT' S " BASIC DESIRE IS TO BUILD UP VERY CLOSE, INTIMATE RELATIONS WITH US"; THERE HAD BEEN " ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE IN THIS POLICY". GOI IS " SERIOUS AND SINCERE" IN THIS DESIRE. SINGH ADDED THAT GOI APPRECIATED USG RECIPROCATION OF DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. HE CITED GRANT OF DOLS 7 MILLION EQUIVALENT UNDER PL-480 TITLE II FOR DROUGHT RELIEF (ANNOUNCED IN PRESS TODAY) AND CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF USG INTEREST IN IMPROVED RELATIONS. HE SAID THIS FOOD AID WAS " DEEPLY APPRECIATED".

4. INDIAN EXPRESS, HINDUSTAN TIMES, AND MOTHERLAND CARRIED EDITORIALS MAY 15 STATING SHARMA, THOUGH NOT FORMALLY IN CABINET, SPOKE FROM SPECIAL POSITION AND PRESUMABLY SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE. HE WAS URGED TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR CHARGES OR TO RETRACT THEM. HINDU NATIONALIST (JANA SANGH) MOTHERLAND ACCUSED SHARMA OF BEING LONG- TIME CIA AGENT NOW ATTEMPTING COVER UP HIS PAST WITH " PHONY ANTI- AMERICANISM".

5. COMMENT: UNLESS GOI TAKES SOME ACTION VIS- A- VIS SHARMA, THE CHARGES WILL BE ECHOED, ELABORATED UPON, AND REITERATED AD INFINITUM AND AD NAUSEUM. DEPARTMENT PROTEST TO INDIAN EMBASSY (REF (C) HOPEFULLY WILL INCLUDE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC GOI CLARIFICATION/ RETRACTION.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS ERNST
Errors: n/a
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From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Subject: SHARMA ATTACKS: CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY
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To: NEA
Type: TE
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